

**MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Federal FY2006
Annual Report of Activities
(October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006)**

**in accordance with
Working Together to PRESERVE MONTANA
The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2003-2007**



December 2006

**Montana State Historic Preservation Office
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On the cover:

Montana SHPO Grants Manager Melisa Kaiser receives 2006 *Preserve America* grant certificate award from First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton in ceremony in Washington, D.C. on March 9, 2006

(see inside, Preservation Highlights)

Montana Preservation Plan: *Working Together to PRESERVE MONTANA*
2003 – 2007 Goals and Objectives

Goal I. Foster a preservation ethic for Montana's heritage properties

Objectives:

1. Instill an awareness and appreciation for Montana's heritage and heritage properties.
2. Encourage the integration of historic preservation in planning and policy-making.
3. Promote the cultural, social, and economic benefits of historic preservation.
4. Provide leadership and vision in historic preservation.

Goal II. Identify, evaluate, and recognize Montana's heritage properties

Objectives:

1. Survey or support the survey of un-inventoried properties throughout the state.
2. Guide the development and use of historical contexts for evaluating the significance and integrity of Montana's archaeological, historic, and cultural sites.
3. Encourage and assist owners to list properties in the National Register of Historic Places.

Goal III. Create and support a statewide comprehensive source for information about Montana's heritage properties and historic preservation

Objectives:

1. Acquire, organize, and share data on the state's archaeological, historic, and traditional cultural sites.
2. Gather, develop, and disseminate historic preservation guidance and standards.
3. Identify financial and human resources to assist preservation.

Goal IV. Encourage the involvement of Montana's tribes in historic preservation

Objectives:

1. Meet regularly with tribal cultural representatives to discuss issues and concerns.
2. Sponsor or co-sponsor forums that include Native Americans.
3. Facilitate the consideration of tribal perspectives regarding the treatment of heritage properties.

Goal V. Work effectively with all agencies, organizations, and individuals for good stewardship and sensitive treatment of Montana's heritage properties

Objectives:

1. Effectively apply historic preservation programs, strategies, techniques, laws, and information to the preservation of Montana's heritage properties.
2. Solidify existing partnerships and form new consensus for the benefit of historic preservation.
3. Strengthen local and private efforts to preserve.
4. Develop and support special programs for the preservation of resources at risk.

Three FY2006 Montana Historic Preservation Highlights

Montana SHPO Awarded *Preserve America* Grant

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office applied for and was awarded \$150,000 from the national *Preserve America* program for use in sub-grants to Montana *Preserve America* communities and for the development of statewide heritage publications. SHPO Grants Manager Melisa Kaiser-Syness received the award from First Lady Laura Bush in a ceremony in Washington D.C. on March 9, 2006. The SHPO proposal, entitled *The Montana Rural Heritage Experience*, was developed in collaboration with Montana's *Preserve America* communities and the Montana Preservation Alliance. In keeping with the goals of the *Preserve America* program, the Montana program was designed to fund local heritage tourism, interpretation, and economic development projects such as events, signage, brochures, and marketing plans over a two-year period (2006-2007) on an application basis. Heritage publications planned to receive support include a Montana historic place-names compendium and a book about the history of barns in Montana, tentatively entitled "Barns of Big Sky Country."

Montana SHPO Staffer Awarded Governor's Recognition

Montana SHPO Cultural Records Manager Damon Murdo was selected to receive a 2006 Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance by Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer. The award was presented in a ceremony hosted by the Governor on October 4, 2006. Damon, who maintains the SHPO State Antiquities Database of recorded heritage properties and inventories and responds to over 2000 requests for information each year, was recognized by Governor Schweitzer for his careful abilities in handling confidential data and for his efficiency in response with an average turn-around time of less than one day. Thank you Damon for your good work – take a bow on behalf of historic preservation!

Montana Governor's Council on Historic and Cultural Properties

Upon taking office in 2005, Governor Brian Schweitzer signed Executive Order 18 creating a seven-member Historic and Cultural Properties Advisory Council. This citizen's council chaired by Lt. Governor John Bohlinger and vice-chaired by State Sen. Lynda Moss (Billings), was charged with studying the benefits of historic preservation and formulating recommendations to the Governor and the 2007 Legislature concerning the state of Montana's policies on the preservation of publicly-owned historic buildings and upon opportunities for communities to use historic preservation as an economic development tool. Montana SHPO Mark Baumler served as an agency representative and consultant to the Council in each of its five general meetings from 2005 through 2006. The final report of the Council is to be available by the end of the year. Included in the report is a recommendation for a fully-funded Montana SHPO, which currently ranks 49th in state support for the historic preservation program.

**Montana State Historic Preservation Office
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ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM

. Perform regular, allowable administrative activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: budget formulation; personnel management and development; administrative organization; and fiscal management {Goals/Objectives: I.4; III.3; V.1}

- ✓ Complied with National Park Service (NPS) policies and procedures in allocation and expenditure of FY2006 federal grant (Historic Preservation Fund) totaling \$604,601.
- ✓ Maintained professional staffing requirements including individuals meeting or exceeding the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Professional Qualifications in historic preservation, history, architectural history, and archaeology.
- ✓ Staff attendance and participation in professional conferences and workshops to maintain and enhance knowledge, skills, and abilities:
 - 32nd Annual Montana History Conference, Helena (Sep 29–Oct 1, 2005; *planning committee and presentation*)
 - Western History Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ (Oct 13-16, 2005)
 - Heritage Area Development Workshop, Butte (Feb 22, 2006)
 - Museums Association of Montana, Ft Benton, (March 9-10, 2006, *presentation*)
 - Governor's Conference on Tourism, Great Falls (April 10, 2006)
 - Montana Archaeological Society Annual Conference (April 21-23, 2006)
 - Montana Tax Increment Finance Districts Workshop, Helena, (May 25, 2006)
 - National Main Street Conference, New Orleans, LA (June 5-9, 2006)
 - "Doin' Time in Deer Lodge," Montana 2006 Preservation Workshop, Deer Lodge (June 24-26, 2006; *co-organizer and presentations*)
 - Economic Benefits of Preservation Workshop, Havre (Aug 9-10; *presentation*)
 - 33rd Annual Montana History Conference, Billings (Sep 28-30, 2006; *planning committee*)
- ✓ Marlene Carbis, SHPO administrative assistant, received training in Central Stores Purchasing.
- ✓ For much of the fiscal year, State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumler temporarily left the program to serve as Interim Director of the Montana Historical Society (Nov 14, 2005 – July 10, 2006). SHPO State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth was appointed Interim State Historic Preservation Officer and program manager during this period.

- ✓ Damon Murdo, SHPO Cultural Records Manager, was recognized with a 2006 *Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance* on behalf of the Montana Historical Society.

. Actively pursue grants and other funding to supplement and/or match the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) in support of historic preservation in Montana {Goal /Objective III.3}

- ✓ Successfully applied for and received a \$150,000 *Preserve America* 2006 grant for proposal: *Montana Rural Heritage Experience*. Grant awarded by First Lady Laura Bush to Montana SHPO Grants Manager Melisa Kaiser in ceremony in Washington, D.C., on March 9, 2006.
- ✓ Funds to be used over period of two years (2006-2008) to support several publications promoting Montana heritage tourism and as competitive matching sub-grants to Montana's *Preserve America* communities.
- ✓ First-round sub-grants awarded in September 2006 to:
 - Fort Benton (\$11,100): to further develop interpretive signage for the "Hands of Harvest" heritage tourism self-guided driving tour in north central Montana.
 - Virginia City (\$9,100): to use in a marketing outreach campaign for tourists traveling between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.
 - Red Lodge (\$10,100): to update historic downtown survey and research of other local historic landmarks.
 - Missoula (\$5,000): to research and add information to their walking tours regarding origin and use of materials used in buildings of their historic districts.

PLANNING PROGRAM

. Perform regular, allowable planning activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including participation in the creation, review, and revision of agency and local plans; the development of historic contexts; the support of state and local preservation ordinances, regulations, and laws; and the application of advanced technologies in historic and prehistoric property preservation planning {Goals/Objectives: I.2; I.4; II.2; III.2; V.1; V.3}

- ✓ Routinely monitored implementation of FY2006 proposed special project activities listed here and developed in accordance with the goals and objectives of the 2003-2007 Montana State Preservation Plan: *Working Together to PRESERVE MONTANA*.
- ✓ Continued to work closely with City of Butte-SilverBow in the revision of local historic preservation ordinance and planning process.

. Initiate public and professional input to the Montana Historic Preservation Plan in anticipation of revision for 2008-2012 {Goals/Objectives: I.4; IV.3}

- ✓ Developed state preservation planning questionnaire and introduced at Montana State Preservation Workshop (Deer Lodge, June 24-26) and Montana History Conference (Billings, September 28-30), as well as posted on SHPO website: www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo

. Participate in 2005-2006 Montana Historic & Cultural Advisory Council created by Governor's Executive Order No. 18-2005 to study and make recommendations concerning the State of Montana's policy and procedure with respect to preservation of publicly owned buildings {Goals/Objectives: I.2; I.3; V.1; V.2; V.4}

- ✓ Assisted in the organization of the Montana Governor's Council on Historic & Cultural Properties, co-chaired by Lt. Governor John Bohlinger and State Senator Lynda Moss (Billings), with five additional citizen members and staffing support from the Montana Preservation Alliance.
- ✓ Participated in all five meetings of the Council to provide information on Montana preservation and the role of the State Historic Preservation Office and the federal historic preservation program.
- ✓ Results and recommendations of the Council to be reported upon December 2006 to Governor Brian Schweitzer for consideration in the 2007 Montana Legislative session.
- ✓ Key findings include the importance for fully funding the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, presently 49th in the country in the level of state match

SURVEY AND INVENTORY PROGRAM

. Perform regular, allowable survey and inventory activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: the conduct or support of surveys to locate, identify, record, and evaluate historic and archaeological sites; the development, maintenance and use of cultural resource inventory information; and the application of new technologies in support of the above {Goals/Objectives: II.1; II.2; III.1}

- ✓ 642 new cultural resource reports acquired and added to the SHPO statewide Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography System (CRABS) and library, representing 145,647 acres of new survey [FY2005: 131,067 acres; FY2004: 152,265 acres; FY2003: 136,999 acres]. There are presently 28,959 documents in CRABS.
- ✓ 1536 newly recorded cultural resource properties added to the Montana Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) database and statewide inventory

maintained in partnership with the University of Montana, Department of Anthropology. These include 931 historic properties, 596 archaeological sites, and 9 combination historic/prehistoric sites [FY2005: 1220; FY2004: 1617; FY2003: 1771]. There are approximately 47,000 cultural resource properties recorded in Montana.

- ✓ SHPO Records Manager Damon Murdo and State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth assisted the BLM in a partnership effort to locate and document the 1838 Ruby Creek battle site in the Madison River Valley, where a group of mountain men including Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, and Osborne Russell attacked a Blackfeet camp. Included in the field effort led by Bureau of Land Management Archaeologist Mark Sant were twenty volunteers from the Madison Valley Historical Association and members of the Blackfeet Community College and Tribal Preservation Office.
- ✓ Additional SHPO archaeological investigations and support included the recovery and identification of human skeletal remains on state land near Dillon, the assessment of newly discovered faunal remains at Ulm Pishkun State Park, and the evaluation of a tipi ring site near Toston in Broadwater County.
- ✓ SHPO staff Kate Hampton and Pete Brown met with and advised Montana State University in the survey and inventory of the Bozeman college campus.

. Explore new possibilities for support of, access to, and sharing of information in the State Antiquities Database, including a survey of other state programs and policies (Goals/Objectives: III.1; III.3)

- ✓ Upgraded the State Antiquities Database to Oracle 10g and migrated the system to the state Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) for ongoing service and support. Although the transition created numerous problems that will continue to need to be “de-bugged”, the change allows for future development of a web-based supported and accessed state cultural resource information system.
- ✓ Conducted review and assessment of existing database and inventory system with architectural database expert Carroll Blend (Bigfork).
- ✓ Met with primary stakeholders in ongoing development of agreement for online access to the Montana State Antiquities Database by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Office (CSKT THPO), with THPO commitment to continued support of the statewide records system. Anticipate agreement in FY2007.
- ✓ Gathered information for consideration from surrounding states regarding online access and sharing of cultural resource information, including fee structures.

. Initiate and/or participate in one or more new community survey and inventory projects (Goals/Objectives: II.1; II.3; V.3)

- ✓ Local Preservation and Community Survey Coordinator Rolene Schliesman reviewed the FY2005 HPF-supported survey of the Missoula Downtown Historic District and Kate Hampton presented the nomination (358 contributing buildings) to the State Preservation Review Board meeting in Billings, September 30, 2006 where it passed unanimously.
- ✓ Schliesman provided technical assistance and attended preliminary organizational meetings for anticipated community surveys of Downtown Deer Lodge, encompassing approximately 50 buildings and of Stanford, 234 standing structures. Schliesman also met with citizens in White Sulphur Springs and conducted a 1-day architectural survey training workshop
- ✓ As an office outreach project, multiple staff assisted the Helena-Lewis & Clark County CLG in planning and initiating an update and revision of survey of the Helena West Side Neighborhood Historic District. Approximately 65 hours of staff time in FY2006 were contributed to planning, neighborhood public meetings, training volunteers, research, and fieldwork to this ongoing project.
- ✓ Assisted Department of Commerce in preparing Request for Proposals (RFP) for community survey of Stanford, Judith Basin County, funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Provided technical assistance in survey standards and guidelines to selected contractor, Jecyn Bremer. [Results received for review November 30, 2006]

. Lead effort to conduct a statewide inventory of African-American historic resources in Montana {Goals/Objectives: I.1; II.1; II.2; III.1; V.2; V.4}

- ✓ Using \$14,100 in grant funding from the Montana Cultural Trust and working in conjunction with Montana Historical Society staff and resources, recruited and directed two historians and one cultural anthropologist in research of census records, oral histories, photographic archives, museum collections, historic property records, as well as secondary sources to identify African-Americans and African-American resources in Montana within a historic context.
- ✓ Collected information was organized and entered into searchable database.
- ✓ Prepared and submitted follow-up proposal (\$26,100) for additional Phase II study (2008-2009) to extend research to other collections and information housed statewide. [Grant approvals due in March, 2007].

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROGRAM

. Perform regular, allowable National Register program activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: support for the Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board; documentation and evaluation of properties for potential National Register listing; preparation and submission of nominations for eligible properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic

Places; participation in the designation of National Historic Landmarks; public education and promotion of the National Register program; and the support of the official Montana National Register sign program {Goals/Objectives: II.2; II.3}

- ✓ National Register Coordinator Kate Hampton held three meetings of the Montana State Preservation Review Board in FY2006: Helena (January 21-22); Glacier National Park & Whitefish (June 2-3); and Billings (September 30). Thirty-two (32) new nominations passed; none failed. Included were the Missoula Downtown Historic District (358 contributing buildings) and 11 private and public property and district nominations within Glacier National Park considered under the *Recreational Camps on Lake McDonald Multiple Property Document* (MPD).

- ✓ Eleven new properties officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places in FY2006 as well as two National Historic Landmark boundary revisions (Butte-Anaconda NHL and Traveler's Rest NHL) and an approval of additional documentation for the previously listed University Area Historic District in Missoula. Newly listed properties are:

John Hepburn Place, Emigrant, Park County	October 19, 2005
Acme Building, Billings, Yellowstone County	November 9, 2005
Adams Hotel, Lavina, Golden Valley County	December 6, 2005
Charlie & Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin, Cascade Co	December 16, 2005
Donovan-Mayer House, Helena, Lewis & Clark County	December 28, 2005
Shelby Town Hall, Shelby, Toole County	February 14, 2006
Charles Boles House, Kalispell, Flathead County	February 14, 2006
Babb-Piegian Inspection Station, Glacier County	April 12, 2006
Billings Townsite Historic District increase, YL County	April 21, 2006
Thexton Ranch, Ennis, Madison County	May 12, 2006
Home of Peace Cemetery, Helena, Lewis & Clark County	May 24, 2006

- ✓ The revised and expanded *Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark*, researched over a period of 15 years with substantial support from the State Historic Preservation Office, was officially approved and increased to include over 6,000 contributing properties and 10,000 acres, making it the largest urban National Historic Landmark in the west.
- ✓ Prepared National Historic Landmark Status Reports to the National Park Service for 24 NHLs in Montana.
- ✓ Provided progress report and presentation update to the Montana Land Title Association Foundation for the use of \$10,000 donation in 2006 to support National Register nomination research and preparation.
- ✓ Regularly discussed and met with public and private owners of historic properties interested in listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

- ✓ Consulted with Forest Service on National Register documentation, eligibility and potential nomination for two expansive traditional cultural properties: Badger-Two Medicine (Lewis & Clark NF) and Crazy Mountains (Gallatin NF).
- ✓ Routinely provided information to public inquiries regarding Montana properties that are currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- ✓ Provided technical assistance and review on request of public interest group (“Save-the-Track”) in the nomination of the Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds Racetrack, Helena, prepared in response to controversial proposed facility developments that will have an adverse impact. SHPO National Register Coordinator Kate Hampton provided court testimony on the process and meaning of National Register listing.
- ✓ Documented and concurred in 232 evaluations of eligibility and 469 evaluations of ineligibility of historic and archaeological properties (i.e., “consensus determinations”) within the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- ✓ Gave file support to the Montana Historical Society’s National Register Sign Program for the production of 94 new property interpretive plaques.

. Research opportunity and feasibility for providing more electronic information and educational resources on Montana National Register properties {Goals/Objectives: I.1; III.1}

- ✓ Met with state Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator to discuss integration of state cultural resource information in an online geographic cadastral computer map environment.
- ✓ ITSD agreed to include the digitization and creation of a GIS layer for National Register-listed properties in a grant proposal to the Small Business Administration, to be decided in FY2007.
- ✓ If supported, this would be the first step in a Montana effort to develop a statewide historic property GIS for research, educational, and heritage tourism purposes. It would provide Montana SHPO with the ability to link other existing information about properties, including National Register nominations, photos, and interpretive sign texts.

DEVELOPMENT/ACQUISITIONS/COVENANTS PROGRAM

. Perform regular, allowable activities relating to historic property development, acquisition and/or covenants that contribute to the preservation of Montana’s cultural resource properties, including: the review or preparation of “pre-development” plans; assistance in the material conservation of National Register listed properties; support

***for the acquisition and preservation of historic sites; preparation and provision of technical assistance in historic architectural preservation; and the development and monitoring as provided for in historic property preservation agreements
{Goals/Objectives: I.4; III.3; V.1; V.2; V.3; V.4}***

- ✓ Taking advantage of vacancy savings created during SHPO Mark Baumler's service as interim Montana Historical Society Director, the Preservation Office advertised, selected and awarded one-time-only \$5,000 matching grants in September 2006 to three historic barn rehabilitation projects:
 - Myllymaki Barn, Little Belt Creek, Cascade County
 - Cue Livery Barn, near Melrose, Beaverhead County
 - Nunberg Barn, outside Wibaux, Wibaux County
- ✓ Provided technical review and comment to the Montana Department of Commerce on eight (8) historic building preservation project proposals submitted as applications for support in 2005-2006 under the Montana Tourism Infrastructure Investment program (aka TIIP grants).
- ✓ Reviewed proposals and provided letters of support to six brick-and-mortar grant applications by various organizations.
- ✓ Pete Brown, SHPO Historic Architecture Specialist, provided on-site technical assistance in conjunction with an adaptive re-use workshop for the endangered Libby School, proposed rehabilitation projects for Zip's Auto in Missoula and the Story Mill in Bozeman, graffiti removal from Fraternity Hall at Elkhorn, and planning for historic structure stabilization in Bannack State Park.
- ✓ SHPO State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth participated in bi-monthly meetings to prepare a site development and management plan for the revised Traveler's Rest National Historic Landmark.

PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES PROGRAM

. Perform regular, allowable activities related to the federal and other tax credit rehabilitation programs that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: providing technical assistance and information to organizations and individuals related to the use of federal, state, and local tax incentives; and the review, inspection, and certification of federal tax act projects pursuant to 36 CFR 67 {Goals/Objectives: I.3; III.3; V.1; V.3}

- ✓ Over \$500,000 in federal tax credits representing \$2.5 million dollars in investment involved in commercial historic property rehabilitations reviewed by SHPO in FY2006.
- ✓ Tax Act credit projects active and ongoing in FY2006 include the L&L Building and Oliver Building in Billings, J. K. Merrill Building in Philipsburg, the Glasgow

Hotel/Rundle Building in Glasgow, the Gladstone Hotel in Circle, and the Sisters of Mercy Hospital/Courthouse East in Kalispell.

- ✓ The John Mills Agricultural Implement Warehouse in Billings submitted its certificate of completion (Part 3) in July, 2006.
- ✓ Historic Architecture Specialist Pete Brown hosted National Park Service Tax Credit Specialist and Reviewer Gary Sachau from the Washington, D.C. office in a 3-day tour (June 28–30) of past and present Montana federal tax act projects in Butte, Bozeman, Livingston, Billings, Helena, and Missoula.

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

. Perform regular, allowable review and compliance activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: timely project reviews with qualified professional staff according to applicable federal and/or state rules, standards and guidelines; specific assistance to federal agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act; the development and participation in preservation compliance agreements; and the participation as legally designated in related state preservation laws and code, including the Montana State Antiquities Act, the Montana Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Protection Act and the Montana Repatriation Act {Goals/Objectives: I.2; I.4; II.2; III.1; III.2; IV.3; V.1; V.2}

- ✓ Individually reviewed and provided written responses to 1991 requests under the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), the National Environmental Protection Act, and/or state preservation law (Montana State Antiquities Act, Montana Environmental Protection Act). This represents an average of 7.9 review and compliance consultations per *work day*, down significantly from 11.3 in FY2005 and 12.6 in FY2004. The decreased number of mediated requests is a direct result of efficiencies gained through implementation of programmatic agency agreements and limited direct agency online access to the State Antiquities Database.
- ✓ Provided same-day responses to majority of initial requests for SHPO cultural resource information and recommendation regarding existing inventory and recorded cultural resources in project areas of potential effect, i.e. “file searches” (Response turn-around rate = 0.46 days, where 0 = same day; 1 = next *calendar day*).
- ✓ Of the 794 initial project reviews and file searches in FY2006 when SHPO recommendations were requested, SHPO recommended no further work necessary in 487 (61%) cases based upon information from the State Antiquities Database and staff determination that there was a low likelihood of impact to significant heritage properties from proposed development.

- ✓ For 784 other Review and Compliance written reviews and consultations for project undertakings (e.g., comments on cultural resource survey reports, evaluations of historical significance, determinations of effect, preservation agreements for mitigation of adverse effects), the overall average response turn-around rate in FY2006 was 11.3 *calendar days* per consultation, well below the 30-day review time allowed under preservation regulations.
- ✓ Participated in the development of and signed eight (8) Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) and four (4) Programmatic Agreements (PAs) with federal agencies and other concurring parties for the consideration and mitigation of adverse or potential adverse effects to significant heritage properties under Section 106 of the national Historic Preservation Act.
- ✓ Hosted 27 office meetings and conferences with representatives of federal and state agencies, applicants, organizations or other interested parties regarding specific project developments and undertakings with the potential to impact heritage properties.
- ✓ Made 13 on-site project visits, as requested by local, state, tribal, or federal agencies for review of pending or ongoing compliance projects.

. Work together with Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service to finalize and implement a cooperative Historic Hardrock Mining Properties Historic Preservation Plan, through new or existing agreements {Goals/Objectives: I.2; II.2; V.2}

- Montana SHPO met with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in January 2006 to discuss the status of the Historic Hardrock Mining Properties Historic Preservation Plan (HPP), but failed to resolve how to formally acknowledge and implement its recommendations in compliance process.
- ✓ Representatives of the Bureau of Land Management indicate that agency consideration of the HPP is ongoing, and that further discussions with SHPO are anticipated in FY2007.

. Strengthen effective working relationships between the Bureau of Land Management and the State Historic Preservation Office through enhanced partnering and development of best management practices {Goals/Objective V.2}

- ✓ At the invitation of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), SHPO staff provided assistance in producing a complex scope-of-work and request-for-proposals for the BLM development of a Montana homesteading landscape historic context for southeast Montana where significant coal bed methane project development is anticipated.
- ✓ SHPO State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth and Cultural Resource Record Manager Damon Murdo partnered in BLM-led survey to identify the location of the 1800s Ruby Creek Battle Site in Madison County.

- ✓ SHPO Compliance Reviewer Josef Warhank attended the annual state BLM Cultural Resource Program meeting and participated in discussions for improving cultural resource management under the existing Montana state protocol for BLM compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.
- ✓ Stan Wilmoth participated in multi-agency workshop to organize state archaeology education efforts around the BLM national *Project Archaeology* curriculum program, based at Montana State University, Bozeman.
- ✓ Worked with BLM Dillon Field Office in pursuing preservation easement and/or land exchange options to protect the Barton Gulch Paleoindian archaeological site from proposed subdivision development.

. Revise and update programmatic agreement with the Federal Highway Administration and Montana Department of Transportation for the preservation and treatment of historic roads and bridges {Goals/Objectives: I.2; II.2; V.1; V.2; V.4}

- ✓ SHPO staff re-wrote and revised the programmatic agreement (PA) among the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and SHPO regarding the preservation and treatment of historic bridges and roads in Montana and met with FHWA and MDT to finalize language.
- ✓ A final revised agreement, also reviewed by the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), will circulate in December 2006 for signature and be ready for implementation in 2007.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

. Perform regular, allowable activities relating to the certification of local governments in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: certification as eligible under Section 101c of the National Historic Preservation Act; processing of applications for certification or amendments of certification agreements; development of state program guidance and procedures; and monitoring and evaluation of existing CLG performance under sub-grants. {Goals/Objectives: V.2; V.3}

- ✓ Allocated and passed-through \$82,500 (14%) in support from FY2006 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to 15 Montana communities and/or counties currently participating in the Certified Local Government program, exceeding the minimum 10% requirement.
- ✓ Communicated regularly with all and visited onsite with most of the 15 Montana CLGs during the year. Maintained Montana CLG listserve for communications.

- ✓ Organized and held two statewide CLG meetings: June 23, 2006 in conjunction with the Montana State Preservation Workshop in Deer Lodge and September 28, 2006 in conjunction with the Montana History Conference in Billings.
- ✓ CLG Coordinator Rolene Schliesman and SHPO Grants Manager Melisa Kaiser performed formal evaluations of two CLG programs in September, 2006: Hardin/Big Horn County and Billings/Yellowstone County. (A third audit of the Miles City CLG was postponed to November 2006).
- ✓ Provided SHPO orientation in Helena for new Billings/Yellowstone County CLG preservation officer, February 23-24, 2006 (Scheduled Havre CLG preservation officer canceled due to poor weather and road conditions).
- ✓ Met with local preservation leaders and government officials considering application for certification as Certified Local Governments in Boulder, Dillon, Terry, Baker, and Ravalli County.

. Continue to work with Butte-Silver Bow County to maintain status of Certified Local Government in good standing {Goals/Objectives: V.2; V.3}

- ✓ Butte-Silver Bow Certified Local Government removed from probationary status on March 7, 2006, contingent upon revised draft local preservation guidelines and amended draft preservation ordinance being finalized and approved by September 15, 2006.
 - Extensions granted October 5 and December 1, 2006, to new deadline of January 30, 2007, based upon good faith efforts, public involvement and pending approval by Council of Commissioners.

OTHER ACTIVITIES (inc OUTREACH and MULTIPLE PROGRAMS)

. Perform regular, allowable other activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: organization and participation in historic preservation outreach and education programs; assistance to HABS/HAER documentation projects; the support of statewide and local preservation organizations; and the conduct of other activities that cross-cut other program areas {Goals/Objectives: All}

- ✓ Routinely provided expertise in historic architecture, architectural history, and archaeology to programs and projects of the Montana Historical Society, including MHS *Archaeology Day!* (October, 2005), MHS Thursday nite lecture series (May, 2006), MHS Indian Heritage Day (September 2006), MHS History Conference (September 2006), the Montana Historical Society National Register Sign Program, and the development and opening of the newest MHS museum exhibit: *Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis & Clark*.

- ✓ Continued to provide extensive review comments and edits to the developing draft state history textbook for Middle School use.
- ✓ Regularly networked online and on phone with national preservation partners, including the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC), and National Park Service (NPS).
- ✓ Supervised internship with Sarah Jane Murray, Middle Tennessee State University historic preservation program graduate student.
- ✓ Participated in meetings of the Montana Burial Board, the Montana Historical Society Native American Advisory Group, and the Governor's American Indian Nations (GAIN) council.

. Promote historic preservation statewide in the form of presentations, workshops, press and informational releases, technical assistance, and other outreach and educational activities {Goals/Objectives: I.1; I.3; I.4; III.2; V.1; V.2}

- ✓ Planned, organized, and presented in the fourth annual Montana Preservation Workshop: *Doin' Time in Deer Lodge* (June 24-26, 2006), in conjunction with the Montana Preservation Alliance and the Deer Lodge Historic Preservation Commission. Two-day venue offered 15 sessions, 31 speakers, two receptions and three tours. Attendance = 68. Three presentations by SHPO staff.
- ✓ Co-sponsor of Montana Archaeology Week (April 16-23, 2006). Organized mailing of 500 Montana Archaeology Week posters: *Remnants of a Dream: The Legacy of Montana's Historic Gold Rush*.
- ✓ SHPO staff presentations/outreach:
 - Lewistown Preservation Awards Ceremony: tax credits 101
 - Missoula Downtown Group: pros and cons of design review
 - Montana Historical Society evening lectures: retrofitting historic windows; Montana's Certified Local Governments: recent local preservation activities
 - Montana Pres Workshop, Deer Lodge: retrofitting historic windows; recording historic properties; *Preserve America* and rural heritage development
 - EPA-DEQ Environmental Review training, Missoula: National Register eligibility and historic property compliance review process
 - Indian Health Service training, Billings: SOI Standards
 - Red Lodge Historic Preservation Commission: tax credits 101
 - Town Meeting, Libby: Adaptive re-use of Libby High School building
 - University of Montana historic archaeology seminar: Cultural resource management and SHPO
 - Montana Land Title Association Conference, Whitefish: National Register grant program update

- Plum Creek Timber Company, Missoula: identifying and recording historic properties
 - Town meeting, Boulder Legion Hall: community preservation
 - Town meeting, Choteau: National Register and tax credit programs
 - German high school exchange students: MHS museum tour
 - Museums Association of Montana conference, Ft. Benton: community preservation
 - *Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation* symposium, Havre
- ✓ Extensive press releases carried statewide for the Montana SHPO FY2006 *Preserve America* grant program, the historic barn rehabilitation grant program, and for recent National Register listed properties.
 - ✓ Regularly published articles on SHPO programs, projects and other initiatives in the Montana Historical Society e-newsletter (*Montana Post*) and the Montana Preservation Alliance newsletter (*Preservation Montana*).

. Continue to edit, update, and communicate information on statewide preservation programs and policies, through the Montana Preservation Services Directory and other formats {Goals/Objectives: I.3; III.2; V.1}

- ✓ Updated Montana SHPO website to include current information on preservation professionals in the Montana Preservation Services Directory, as well as postings of expanded guidance on state and federal historic rehabilitation tax incentives, the SHPO planning questionnaire, and links to other preservation websites.
- ✓ Maintained and regularly posted information on the Montana CLG and Montana Heritage Area listserves.
- ✓ Routinely responded to requests for information on the National Register of Historic Places, the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, and on potential preservation funding and other incentives.

. Participate as allowable in the activities of other state heritage programs, including the Montana Preservation Alliance, Montana Main Street Program, and Montana Heritage Project {Goals/Objectives: I.4; V.2; V.3}

- ✓ Through June 2006, Mark Baumler, interim Montana Historical Society Director, served on the Montana Heritage Commission and the Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission. Mark also participated as SHPO ex-officio member to the Governor's Council on Historic & Cultural Properties.
- ✓ Various SHPO staff collaborated with the non-profit statewide Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) in preservation efforts and projects, including the Montana Preservation Workshop at Deer Lodge (June 24-26, 2006), a Heritage Area Symposium/Workshop in Butte (February 22, 2006), and town meetings in Libby to discuss adaptive re-use of the Libby high school and Hamilton to consider options to adopt the historic Silver Bridge over the Bitterroot River.

- ✓ Provided images and technical assistance to MPA in production of 4-minute DVD illustrating prominent historic sites and buildings saved over the years. Premiered at Montana Preservation Workshop in Deer Lodge.
- ✓ Attended Montana Preservation Alliance annual two-day strategic planning meeting in May 2006 at the B-Bar Ranch near Pray, Montana.
- ✓ SHPO Community Preservation coordinator Rolene Schliesman provided extra support and technical assistance to the fledgling Montana Main Street Program while they searched for a new Main Street coordinator (Melville Walters hired Spring 2006). She served on the Montana Main Street Advisory Committee that reviewed applications and assisted the Department of Commerce in selecting three pilot programs and attended the national Main Street Conference in New Orleans, June 5-9, 2006.